DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 427 124 UD 032 769

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TITLE Parents and the Internet: What Today's Parents Need To Know.
PUB DATE 1998-00-00
NOTE 52p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Educational Policy; Educational Research; Elementary Secondary Education; *Information Sources; *Internet; *Parent Participation; Parent School Relationship; *Parents; Policy Formation; *Urban Schools; Urban Youth

ABSTRACT

This guide to the Internet is designed to help parents, especially urban parents, find information they will need to participate in school leadership and in their children's education. The following sections explain the Internet for parents: (1) "How To Use the Internet"; (2) "General Sites"; (3) "Education Related Sites for Parents"; (4) "Government Links"; (5) "My Favorite Site"; (6) "Must See Sites for Parents"; (7) "Urban Web"; (8) "Parents and School Reform"; (9) "Plain Old Fun for Parents and Kids"; and (10) "Index." Using the information superhighway is vital if parents want to participate fully and knowledgeably in constructing school policy. (SLD)

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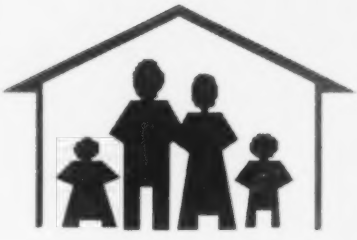
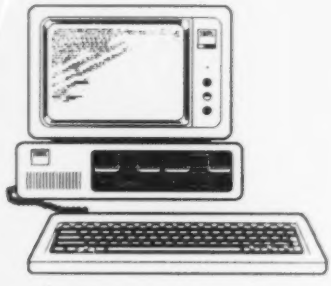
"Education is not preparation for life; it is life." John Dewey 1859-1952

"People are starting to adopt a Web lifestyle. No longer are they using the Web only as a source of occasional information; they are routinely using it to pay bills, buy cars, check movie schedules, book restaurants and plan vacations. The Web is becoming a central part of our lives." Bill Gates in a memo to Microsoft employees, July 21, 1998.





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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

PARENTS AND THE INTERNET:WHAT TODAY'S PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

by John J. Byrne, Ph.D.

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INTRODUCTION

The traditional concept of education considers the teacher-student relationship as the nexus upon which success and/or failure of the educational program of a school depends, with the administrator/supervisor viewed as a facilitator/expediter of the process. Almost always overlooked has been the parent. It has only been in the post bellum decades that the parent has been given a focal position in the educational process. This may be witnessed in our time by the insistence on a policy of inclusion for the parent, not merely as an adscititous presence, but rather as a vital and essential part of progressive education. The Governance Law of New York State insists on parent representation on bodies which are to determine school policy. The Chancellor's mandate for each school to have a leadership team in which parent representation is at least 25% minimally, 50% optimally, places emphasis on the parent as a leader, a decision maker, a true constituent of the school community. Unfortunately, many, if not most parents, are unaware of how to obtain information sufficient to enable them to participate fully in the process shortly to be expected of them in the schools. This pamphlet aims to solve this problem.

The goal is to save parents the time of having to search through voluminous material for what they want, be it information on magnet/charter schools, use of technology by parents, ways of making school safer for their children, how to obtain information on homework help or college admissions, or any other resource open to parents. By the millennium it is predicted that over fifty percent of households will have immediate access to the World Wide Web, impressively

higher than today's thirty percent. Information for parents via this superhighway is vital if they are to participate fully and knowledgeably in constructing twenty-first century school policy.

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The first thing you must do is to find a computer. Today, almost every library, school, church, and almost every home has one. If you are going to use the computer in your local library, you may have to call ahead and reserve time. Everyone loves computers. Once you are in front of the monster, do not be afraid. It can't break (That's what they all say). Don't worry about fancy terms, such as DVD, 56K modems, 300 megahertz speed, and all that other drivel. Just make sure the power is on. The computer in the library will be already accessed to the Internet, so all you have to do is connect to an address, a Web site, a page, a URL (okay, ;-D one technical term, okay?).

Type in the following exactly as it is here: http://www.newbie.net/CyberCourse/index.html and you will get the best introduction to the Internet a newbie can get so that you will not be a clueless newbie but a "knowbie" in a short period of time.

Newbie : n. A newcomer to the Internet, or to some new area of the Internet.

Clueless Newbie: n. An ignorant and obnoxious newcomer to the Internet.

Start with the New Newbies Home Pages, and click on every underlined word so that you are led step by step through the best intro to cyberworld on the Web (See Contents Summary Page).

II. GENERAL SITES

Now that you are a knowbie, there are several sites which give general information to parents of school age youngsters on everything ranging from adolescence to zoot suits. The following are the four star rated sites:

☆☆☆☆Family.com (www.family.com). In typical Disney style (See Family.com Page) Family.com celebrates the best of parenting and parenting ideas, with topics ranging from projects to recipes, travel, and education. One of the hallmarks of this site is its local guide to kids' events in towns across the country.

It has a great search engine of its own site

. I typed in *parent* and received 13,363 hits, many of which had to do with high school youngsters, such as links to the following: "Will Underachiever Change in College?" "Help for Kids Who Come Home Alone," "How to Stop Children Who Love to Argue," and a great link from *FamilyPC Magazine*, "Tools for Schools" which contains a software package that's just right for every class, from multimedia presentations to newsletters, posters, and research reports.

The home page also has another search engine which allows the browser to "go local" to find areas within a state or city of interest. A search of New York led to links to the Big Apple Parent and New York Family links, both of which contain calendars of events of interest to families, parents and students.

If you click on Education at the home page, you can search the education archives by topic and age, ranging from gifted and private school for the former and any age for the latter. I chose *reference* for *any age* and was greeted with the following links:

1. Home IQ Tests: Psychologists discuss the wisdom of giving IQ tests to children at home.
2. Are Textbooks Necessary?
3. Eight Prizewinning Learning Projects
4. Three History Projects
5. Crazy About Math It's a magic trick, a riddle, a trip to the grocery store--it's math that's a blast
6. Teachers Bring Learning Home
7. Neighborhood Organizing
8. Inventive Thinking Projects

9. Three Astronomy Projects
10. Geology Projects
11. One Small Square: Backyard (FamilyTested Software)
12. MayaQuest (FamilyTested Software)
13. The World Almanac for Kids (Book Review)

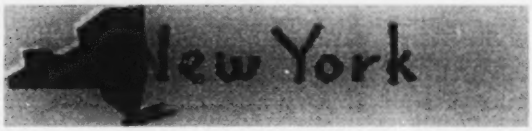
☆☆☆☆Family Education Network (www.familyeducation.com) (See Family Education Network Page). The goal of the FamilyEducation Network is to help parents and their children learn and succeed. With sections on homework help and college admissions, there's more education-related content here than on other parenting sites. Schools can even get free Web space they can use to create a home on FamilyEducation.

To find the relevant area, select the appropriate age group icon. I clicked on High School and Beyond which led to a page filled with useful information (See High School and Beyond Page). You may browse the entire area which led to the following topics, each of which has its own link to another site:

Activities
National Geography Awareness Week
The Night Sky
College Applications
Financial Aid
Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco
Nutrition
Sports and Fitness
Homework Help
Homework Help: American History
Homework Help: Foreign Languages
Homework Help: Science
Learning Disabilities/Special Needs
Learning Disabilities
Special Education
News & Policy
Policy

Parenting
Discipline
Gifted and Talented
Parent Child Relations
Thanksgiving Time!
American Education Week
Choosing a Quality School
Education Trends
Get Ready for Parent-Teacher Conferences
History
It's Report Card Time!
Math
Reading, Writing, and Literature
School Forms Tool Kit
Science
Technology in Learning
Media Awareness
Quiz Central
College
College Planning
Health & Safety
Health
Safety

Helping Your Kids with Homework
Homework Help: English
Homework Help: Geography
Science Fair Central
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Nine 'Rules of Thumb' for Parents
The Main IDEA by Robert Crabtree
News
Talking to our Kids about the Washington Scandal
Carleton's Corner
Divorce
Online Safety
Teens and Work
School
Back to School
Diversity in Schools
For Educators
High School
Homeschooling
Learning Styles
Parent Involvement
School Boards
School Safety
Sex Education

Or you may the site using its own search engine, a rather good one. There is also a Go Local icon which will connect you to the appropriate sites within your own state. I clicked on 

and was greeted with many links related to parent and educational partnership associations within New York State:

- Our Education Partners
- Government Links
- Special Needs and Learning Disabilities
- Trends and Traditions
- Home Schooling
- Educational Associations and Websites
- Getting Involved
- Fundraising
- School Governance
- K-12 Resources
- Museums & Libraries
- Technology
- Colleges & Universities

Each of these, in turn, leads to other links which give a wealth of information.

☆☆☆☆

The Mining Co. -- Family (www.miningco.com/family/) With expert parent guides writing about family and kids' issues, this site offers topics and links covering everything from learning disabilities to kids and art. From the home page, click on Family Internet (See Family Internet Page) which contains such wonderful information as a tour of the best on line zoos and the best free online encyclopedias. I clicked on For Parents which led to a wonderful page, For Parents: Internet Parenting, which contained the following links:

All About Kids Online: Provides information and resources that make parenting less stressful

and more fun.

Children's Literature Web Site: Internet resources related to books for children and young adults.

Computer Museum Guide to Best Software for Kids: The best of kids' software reviewed by families.

Cookie Central: Everything you wanted to know about persistent cookies (not the kind Hillary Clinton doesn't stay home to bake).

CyberMom Dot Com: A home on the net for moms with modems! Hot!

Email for Kids: Everything you need to know to help your kids get into email and get the most out of it.

Families on the Internet: Starting from Scratch: A step-by-step guide to getting on the Internet.

Family Education Network: An Internet magazine devoted to helping parents get more involved in their children's education.

Family Internet: Calling itself a "family Internet channel", this site is divided into sections such as At Home Dad, Komputer Klinic, Family Travel and more.

Family.Com: Feature articles with a terrific calendar of family events for major cities from coast to coast.

Family PC : The online edition of *FamilyPC Magazine* is the place to go for reviews of children's software.

The Informed Parent: A well-written journal addressing common parental concerns.

IntelliBots: If you want to expose your kids (or yourself) to the concepts of programming in a fun way, IntelliBots is for you.

Kids Source Online: The source for in-depth education and healthcare information for parents.

Komputer Klinic for Teachers :Kim Komando is doing her part to help educate teachers about the

Internet.(This is also helpful to parents who are newbies to cyberworld).

Librarians Guide to Cyberspace for Kids & Parents: Librarians are experts at selecting, organizing and categorizing information so it is easy to find and use.

Newsweek's Editors' Choice Winners: The best kids' software of 1997, listed by category.

Parenthood Web: Yep, it's another parenting web site with chat -- but it's worth a visit.

Parenthub: One-stop family resource guide featuring parenting, kid activities, games, family finance.

Parenting InSite: A newsletter of parental insights brought to you by a group of medical, psychological and other professionals.

Parenting Q&A: Have a parenting question? This site is devoted to providing answers from their panel of experts.

Parents and Children Together Online: From The Family Literacy Center at the ERIC Clearinghouse for Reading, English and Communication.

Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway: An outstanding guide to boost parents' confidence and jump-start their involvement in a new media that truly benefits children.

ParentTime : A Time-Warner parenting Web site that customizes itself based on the ages of your children. Very Cool.

Score@Kaplan : Advice on ways to help your kids succeed in school.

Showcasing Success Stories: These are the real life stories of schools, libraries and community centers connecting to the Information Highway.

Surfing the Net with Kids: An archive of past newspaper columns, with hyperlinks to each reviewed site.

When Schools Plug In :Take a look at how several enterprising schools have plugged in to Cyberspace.

World Village:Reviews games and educational software. Includes regular columns on home computing.

☆☆☆☆ParentNews.com (www.parentnews.com) This informative site (See Parent News Page) features a relatively unadorned, eclectic collection of articles and resources for parents on a wide range of child-rearing issues. At the Home Page, I clicked on *Resources* and then on *Parenting Education* which gave links to the following:

Parent Partners In Education: Motivation The importance of parental involvement in a child's education can not be over stressed!

Response Counseling Team A California based group of counselors who will respond to your parenting questions.

What is Normal Development? " Development is given in a range of years. Each child develops as an individual. Ask yourself, are you expecting too much or too little?"

The Single Parent Resource "An online forum focusing on the issues that concern today's single parents and their children."

Fathering: Promoting Your Child's Balanced Development Giving your children every opportunity to develop a special talent can provide them with a sense of their uniqueness and be a healthy

enhancement to their self esteem.

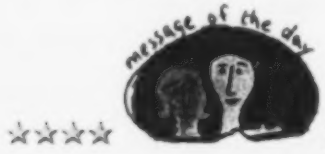
Handling Kids' Aggression Here are some encouraging ways to redirect them...

Twenty-one Points by Dr. Alice Miller, Ph.D. Part of the Alice Miller Library Home Page. Powerful perspectives...

Parenting "Parenting should take place only when a man and a woman have given serious consideration to what they are asking for.

Adolescence Directory On-Line (ADOL) Adolescence Directory On-Line (ADOL) is an electronic guide to information on adolescent issues. It is a service of the Center for Adolescent Studies at Indiana University. Educators, counselors, parents, researchers, health practitioners, and teens can use ADOL.

ERIC/REC The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Clearinghouse on Reading, English and Communication provides educational materials, services and coursework to parents, educators and students interested in the language arts.



☆☆☆☆ Parent Soup (www.parentsoup.com) Whether you're looking for advice on how to handle sibling rivalry or choosing a college or you're simply looking for a good dose of laughter, Parent Soup's active chat groups and message boards are for you. Some of the

message boards where you can communicate with other parents about common items of interest are:

Ask Our College Expert

Homeschooling

Campus Reports Student Aid

Hot Education Topics

Preschool and Elementary

Education

Special Education

Surviving Middle School

Click on the Education Central button, and you will be led to a page bountiful with information dealing with virtually every aspect of parent-school relationships (See Education Central Page).

Click on the appropriate school house icon on the left, choose the grade level of your youngster, and locate the relevant information. I scrolled down to twelfth grade on the high school icon and read the following:

"This is it! The biggest problems this year are probably a combination of senior-itis, cockiness and raw terror at what's to come. However enormous the accomplishments or the disappointments, there's a big change ahead after all these years of school. The biggest problem for many parents: How to be enough help and not interfere -- to demonstrate confidence in our off-spring's ability to manage on his/her own and still be supportive when support is required."

On the same page there were links to the following informative sites: Developmental Milestones: What changes at the end of high school? Preparing for College: Homework now includes planning for life after high school. How You Can Help: Here are the tools to help with whatever is left of high school problems.

I clicked on Preparing for College

and found articles on every aspect of the college search process; you can even get advice directly from an expert college advisor at Ask Our College Expert. There is also a link to tools to track down the perfect school which leads to college websites across the country. Today most colleges have their own websites with great information for students and parents. There is also a link for help finding the best SAT and ACT prep materials on the Web.

Another great link is the Parent-Teacher icon which leads to informative links, such as: Connecting With The Teacher, for tips on staying in touch and background on parent-school

partnership; Tracking Your School, for information on school standards and reforms and on outside ways to monitor school performance; Closer To Home, where, if you're more concerned about how to handle individual issues between your child and a teacher, stop by these Parent-Teacher Conference pages.

III. EDUCATION RELATED SITES FOR PARENTS

For parents who spend a great deal of time helping their children with homework and for those who are interested in the academic progress of their children, the best all around site is *http://members.aol.com/jacksonea/edlinks.htm*. This site, which coincidentally is called Education Related Links for Parents and Teachers, links to a collection of internet sites related to education and is constantly growing and improving. You simply click on your area of interest from the following choices:

●General Education Resources ●English, Reading, and Literature ●Mathematics ●Science ●History, Geography, and Government ●Educational Organizations ●Computer and Technology Education ●Special Education ●Lesson Plans

Each of these general areas is subdivided with individual links to other sites. Among the best General Education Resources are the following choices:

ERIC

●Ameritech Schoolhouse ●Armadillo's K-12 resources ●Activity Search ●AskERIC Home Page ●Classroom & Teacher Resources ●Exploratorium Home Page ●Cyberspace Middle School Teacher Resource Center ●Children's Literature Web Guide ●Educational Internet Resources by Subject ●Education Resources for Teachers ●IPL Education Division ●SIR-C EducationCD-ROM - 02 ●THOMAS: Legislative Information on the Internet ●TEACHERS

HELPING TEACHERS ●Mustang List of Lesson Plans ●Starting points for K-12 ●Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators

The English, Reading, and Literature area is further subdivided into the following: •ConnectEd - A WWW resource providing links to sites of interest for English Teachers. •English and Library Lesson Plans - English and library lesson plans with handouts. •English Teachers' Page •Illinois Association of Teachers of English •New York State English Council •Ross's English Sites - links and resources for teachers of high school English and related areas. •University of Iowa - English Education Program

The Mathematics projects for parents and teachers include the following:

•Atlanta Math Project - teacher-enhancement project. •Help for New Math Teachers - devoted to helping new math teachers with ideas, problems and suggestions. •INSTRUCT - providing online teacher professional development for planning, instruction, and assessment in mathematics classes. •Journal for Research in Mathematics Education •Math Teacher Link - designed to deliver opportunities and classroom resources to teachers at the high school and lower division college levels. •Mathematics Education Department - University of Central Florida •OSU Mathematics Education Center - Devoted to undergraduate mathematics education with emphasis on the use of technology. •Shell Centre for Mathematical Education •South Bank University - Centre for Mathematics Education •Technology and Mathematics Education - teaching support

for using technology in school mathematics. •University of Plymouth - Centre for Teaching Mathematics

Parents trying to help their children with science projects can benefit from: •About Rainbows - A tutorial on the physical nature of the rainbow, with graphics and text references. •Aeronautics Learning Laboratory for Science, Technology, and Research - NASA-sponsored site offering a complete textbook on aeronautics at various reading levels, from middle school through college. •Ask an Engineer - guidance in engineering from the Society of Women Engineers. •BreakThrough Online - designed to connect students (primarily students of color), teachers, and parents to science education programs and resources in their communities. •CPIMA Education Outreach Program - promotes materials science education on the K-University level. •Dr. Kadar's Immunology Page - information on the body's immune system. •Frontier Research Seminars - non-profit organization dedicated to public education concerning cutting-edge scientific concepts and research. •Investigations in Science Education - Portuguese journal devoted to research in science education. •Last Word- why is the sky blue? Why does hair turn grey? Hundreds of science trivia questions answered. •MendelWeb - a WWW teaching and learning resource, built around and including Gregor Mendel's paper of 1865. •Minority Science & Engineering Program - The MSEP provides academic support for minorities entering science and engineering at the University of Washington. Included at this site are contact names, program description and sample worksheets and tests from our Academic Excellence Workshops. •Net Lab Science Network - seeks to foster and encourage the expansion of scientific thought, research and presentation through the use of the Internet. •Prince George's Community College Science & Technology Resource Center - an advocate for better science teaching and learning for K-12 and

college students, teachers, and faculty. •PTViz - Macintosh program for illustrating the organizing

principles for the periodic table. Select elements, graph properties, and print tables. •Science is for Girls - internet scavenger hunt. •Science Quest - education for help in school or just for your interest, with audio introductions and explanations. •ScienceSpace Project - joint research venture between George Mason, the University of Houston, and NASA's Johnson Space Center. Strengths and limits of virtual reality for science education are explored. •Technology-Science Roadshow - touring exhibition of demonstrations and hands-on interactive exhibits teaching students about science and technology. •University of Texas-Austin Science Education Center - contains information on degree programs and other general information. •Virtual Science - Java demos of basic scientific principles. •Worlds Of Wonder - science-based curriculum on the Internet. •Lesson Plans and Activities •Views Of The Solar System •Earthquake URL's •Disaster URL's •Earthquakes •Schoolhouse Study Carrels•Science and Technology in the News •SeaWorld Lesson Plans

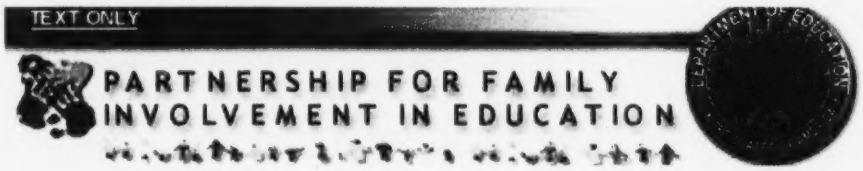
There is help for students and parents on History, Geography, and Government at: •Michigan Government •World War II - "54 Years Ago" •Cruiser Scout - By Paul Mckinley United States •Xerox PARC Map Viewer •Remembering Nagasaki: Contents

A parent wishing to contact Educational Organizations for information and/or help in any educational matter will find links to the following two professional organizations: ●National Education Association ●Michigan Education Association while parents of special education children will find assistance at a link called ●Special Education Resources for Parents and Teachers (See Special Education Links for Parents and Teachers Page).

IV. GOVERNMENT LINKS

There are four ☆☆☆☆ sites which link a parent to information provided by the government and its infinite resources.

Primary among these sites is the U.S. Department of Education (http://www.ed.gov) (See U.S. Department of Education Home Page). Click on the link Partnership for Family Involvement in Education which will bring you to a separate page devoted to parental involvement in schools.



The mission of the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (PFIE) is to increase opportunities for families to be more involved in their children's learning at school and at home and to use family - school - community partnerships to strengthen schools and improve student achievement. You will find such interesting facts as the following: "72% of children, aged 10-13, said they would like to talk to their parents more about school work. Almost half of older students agree." Add to this the fact that teachers say that having parents involved in their children's education is the "single most important thing public schools need to help students learn."

On the home page, click on Involvement in Education: The Smartest Investment where you will find interesting facts such as the following: "Family involvement in education is perhaps the best financial decision a family can make. In fact, if every parent of a child aged 3 through 17

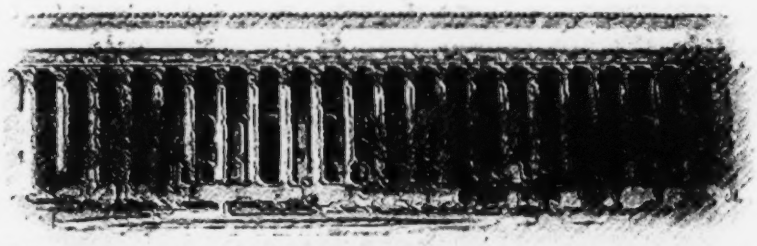
committed one hour to reading or working on schoolwork with his or her child five days a week, American parents would annually devote at least 8.4 billion hours to support their children's educational growth. In monetary terms, if teachers were to spend the same amount of time one-on-one with children, the cost to the American taxpayer would be about $390 billion, more than the amount the public currently pays for the entire K-12 educational system."

At the bottom of this page, click on Strong Families, Strong Schools which will lead to further links providing the following information:

•A review of the past 30 years of key research findings on the importance of involving families in their children's learning. •Examples of family involvement efforts that are working. •Concrete ways in which different participants in the family involvement partnership can help achieve success.

Back on the Home page of the U.S. Department of Education, click on Publications for Parents at the bottom of the page (See Publications for Parents Page) where there are many links to other sites of interest to any parent, ranging in topics from how to help your child in math to how to become Internet savvy and how to look for student aid for college.

The New York State Education Department (www.nysed.gov) has several interesting



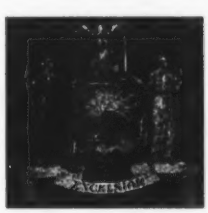
The New York State Education Department

links ranging from a search engine of the entire site to programs and publications put out for parents by the State Education Department. There is a good link (See Directories and Information Sources Page) with information about current trends in education and up to the minute press releases of interest to parents. Here you may click on a link to see the school report card of your children and another to find out the district's performance and financial information.

I clicked on Search the State Education Department Gopher Server which led me to a Gopher Menu. I clicked on Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education which led to a wide variety of topics dealing with these four branches. I clicked on Parent and Community Involvement in the Participation of Work at School which led to the following cornucopia of choices:

Activities of EMSC to encourage participation
AHERA Warning Label Requirements
AHERA: Parent, Teacher, Staff Notification
Annual Report on the Status of the Schools (Chapter 655 Report)
Awards for Successful Results
Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making Plans
Building Local Capacity for Raising Standards for All Students
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Publications Catalog Fall-Winter 1996-97 (Adobe . PDF format, 241K)
Charter Schools Discussion Paper
Commissioner's Decisions - 02/96 - School Board removed for endangering children
Commissioner's Decisions - 06/96: School District Election Results Invalidated
Commissioner's Decisions - 07/95 - Premature dismissal of alleged religious beliefs
Commissioner's Decisions - 07/96: Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making Must
Commissioner's Decisions - 07/96: Bond Referendum Information Properly Dissemina
Commissioner's Decisions - 07/96: No Evidence Vote Date Set to Inconvenience Vote
Commissioners Decisions - 10/95 - AIDS Demonstration Project Policy Standards
Commissioners Decisions - 10/95 - Religious Beliefs and Immunizations
Conference on Services for Adults and Families
Developing a Mission Statement for a Middle-level School (Adobe .PDF format, 99K)
Directory of Subject Contact Persons
Early Elementary Resource Guide to Integrated Learning (Adobe .PDF file format)
GOALS 2000 - National Education Goals

Incidental Teaching
Index of Selected 1995 "School Executives Bulletin" Articles
Learning Standards -- Parent Brochure Written in English (Adobe .PDF format, 153K)
Lo Que Deben Saber los Padres Acerca De Las Normas de Aprendizaje del Estado De Nueva York (Adobe .PDF, 142K)
Meeting Requirements for Voter Registration
More State Aid Data Now Accessible
New Compact for Learning - Strategic Objectives
Nominations Are Invited for "Sharing Success" Validation Panels
Perform or Perish: Recommendations to the Regents Subcommittee on Low Performing Schools
Possibilities Catalog
Privitization in Education Discussion Paper
Q&A - Building Local Capacity
Regents Action - 06/96 - Incidental Teachers
Regents Agenda: Approval of Reg re: Procedures for Preparing Small City School B
Regents Agenda: Proposed Reg re: Using Plain Language in Preparing Budgets, Annu
Regents Committee on EMSC - 04/96 - Report on implementation of Commissioner's R
Regents Committee on EMSC - 09/96 - Proposed Reg re: Procedures for Preparing Sm
Regents Committee on EMSC - 09/96 - Proposed Reg re: Using Plain Language in Pre
Regents Full Board - 03/96 - Progress report on Roosevelt School District
School Quality Review Initiative
School-to-Work Local Partnership Awards
Shared Decision Making Biennial Review and Technical Assistance
Shared Decision Making Focus Forums - Summer 1995
Sharing Success
Spring 1996 Pilot Assessments
The School Quality Review Initiative (SQRI) in New York State
A Strategy for Raising Achievement Standards
Statewide Faculty Meeting
Symposium on Cost-Effectiveness
Teleconference Schedule on Higher Standards
Update on Budget Voting Dates - Nassau and Suffolk Counties
A Glossary of Selected Terms
1996-97 Tentative Teleconference Schedule

The New York State Government Services Locator  (http://unix2.

nysed.gov/ ils/topics/ educate.htm) allows you to browse for information by subject or to connect directly to New York State Government Internet Resources. I clicked on Browse for Information by Subject and was led to links ranging from Aging to Welfare. I clicked on Education which led to the following links:

Forms, Permits, Registrations and Licenses for Teachers
Training and Education services for Local Governments
Public and Private Schools Directory
NYS School Curricula
Board of Regents
Education Aid to Schools
SUNY
Financial Aid for College
Student Loan Agency Home Page
Teachers
Cities, Towns and Counties
Facts, Figures and Statistics
State Education Department Home Page

The New York City Board of Education (http://205.232.145.43) has its very own Web page (See New York City Board of Education Page) which contains icons leading to a great deal of local information. I clicked on School and Community and was brought to a link called ● PARENTS which was subdivided into *Internet Resources for Parents*, a great link leading to further links of interest to parents (See Web Sites for Parents Page) and *Organizations* which leads to links with PTAs and Parent Chat areas.

When I returned to the home page of the NYC Board of Education, I went to its search engine and typed in "parents" and was greeted by page after page of hits concerning parents in

the New York City School System, including PTA meeting announcements in individual schools as well as links to the safe use of the Internet by students under parental supervision. This is a good search engine for the site.

V. MY FAVORITE PARENT SITE

One of the best sites for parents is run by NPIN called Internet Resources for Parents and Those Who Work with Parents (http://www.npin.org/parlink.html). This is a no-nonsense, no-graphics page with hundreds of links arranged in alphabetical order. Everyone is certain to find something of value here, such as the following:

•Alliance for Parental Involvement (ALLPIE) : Assists and encourages parental involvement in all types of schooling including public, private, and at-home. The site includes a conference calendar, a sample of the ALLPIE newsletter, and information on how to access their extensive resource lending library.

• American Library Association: Resources for Parents & Kids The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest, largest, and most influential library association in the world. This page provides several resources for parents, including: (1) The Librarians Guide to Cyberspace

for Parents & Kids, (2) the Parents Page: Library Connections for Parents, and (3) Links for Parents and Caregivers. Users can also link to the 50+ Great sites for Kids and Parents, as voted by librarians who work with children and the Web everyday.

• National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education: The NCPIE is dedicated to developing effective family/school partnerships in schools throughout America. The

NCPIE mission is to advocate for the involvement of parents and families in their children's education and to foster relationships between home, school, and community that can enhance the education of all our nation's young people. Their Internet site offers materials for developing family/school partnership policies, an online resource catalog, and a listing of conferences.

- Netparents.org: Netparents.org was developed by an ad-hoc coalition of Internet businesses, nonprofit groups, and public interest advocates to help educate the public about the availability of user empowerment tools. The site provides: (1) Listings of Blocking Software, (2) Resources for Kid-Safe Net Access, (3) Descriptions of Content Rating Systems for the Net, (4) Listings of Kid-Safe Sites, and (5) Links to Additional Resources for Parents.

- Parent Teacher Association (PTA): This site includes descriptions of PTA publications arranged by subject headings: PTA Issues and Initiatives; a PTA Calendar of Events; and links to local and state PTA Organizations. I clicked on the hand icon and then on Links to Local and State PTAs and then on New York State PTA which led to a cornucopia of information about school report cards and ratings of schools in New York.

VI. Must See Sites for Parents

The Following are some "MUST-SEE" WEB SITES FOR PARENTS gleaned from surfing various search engines and exploring numerous links:

☆☆☆☆The Administration for Children and Families (http://www.acf.dhhs.gov) The Administration for Children and Families is responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

☆☆☆☆The Alliance for Parental Involvement in Education (http://www.croton.com/allpie) The Alliance for Parental Involvement in Education is a nonprofit organization that assists and encourages parental involvement in education in public school, private school, or at home

☆☆☆☆American Academy of Pediatrics (http://www.aap.org/default.htm) The Academy helped develop the Parents Guide to the Internet, which showcases the Internet as an educational tool, gives tips on Internet safety for children, and highlights Web sites for families and parents.

☆☆☆☆ALA Resources for Parents & Kids (http://www.ala.org/parents/index.html) This page of the ALA provides several resources for parents, including: (1) The Librarians Guide to Cyberspace for Parents & Kids, (2) the Parents Page: Library Connections for Parents, and (3) Links for Parents and Caregivers.

☆☆☆☆Better Homes & Gardens (http://www.bhglive.com) Better Homes and Gardens has compiled 10 years' worth of parenting articles written by John Rosemond arranged alphabetically on this site. All the articles have previously appeared in Better Homes and Gardens

Common Sense Parenting (http://www.parenting.org) Common Sense Parenting is dedicated to

providing parents with all the information they need to be good parents. It also gives them the option to ask questions.

☆☆☆☆Daily Parent (http://dailyparent.com) Daily Parent contains articles and message boards

on topics relating to parenthood and family issues. Major subject areas it addresses on its web site are family, health, pregnancy, and education & development.

☆☆☆☆Daughters Newsletter (http://www.daughtersnewsletter.com) Daughters is a highly acclaimed newsletter for parents of adolescent girls ages 8-18. The mission of Daughters is to help parents successfully guide their daughters through the pre-teen and teenage years. Daughters provides vital information on tough parenting issues like divorce, dieting, smoking, body-piercing, cliques, dating, sibling squabbles and self-esteem.

☆☆☆☆Expect the Best From a Girl:That's What You'll Get (http://www.academic.org) Sponsored by Mount Holyoke College, this web site features articles with information parents can use to encourage girls to excel in math, science, and technology (traditionally male fields). It also includes lists of programs designed specifically for girls, colleges and universities with programs targeted at female students.

☆☆☆☆Family Internet (http://www.familyinternet.com) Family Internet is a search engine with

the following categories: finance, entertainment, health, world news & sports, parenting, high-tech lifestyles, education, kids, and live broadcasting.

☆☆☆☆Family Resource Online (http://www.familyresource.org) Family Resource Online has articles for parents on current topics, links to online resources, and an opportunity to chat with other parents about certain topics.

☆☆☆☆Family Works (http://www.princetonol.com/family/Family Works) contains practical parenting tips/columns.

☆☆☆☆Parent, Schools, Communities United for Kids (http://www.handinhand.org) Hand in hand's goals are to increase the number of parents and community members on school campuses playing a wide variety of roles, increase the number of home environments where education is supported, nurtured and valued, and increase public awareness about the importance of parent, employer and community involvement in children's education.

☆☆☆☆The Informed Parent (http://www.informedparent.com) The Informed Parent is the voice of the Pediatric Medical Center. It primarily contains health-related articles for parents.

☆☆☆☆Mothers' Voices (http://www.mvoices.org) Mothers' Voices has been speaking out for four years for AIDS education to prevent the transmission of HIV, the promotion of safer sexual behavior, research for better treatments and a cure, and compassion for every person living with HIV and AIDS.

☆☆☆☆National Center for Fathering (http://www.fathers.com) The National Center for Fathering's (NCF) mission is to inspire and equip men to be better fathers. In response to the dramatic trend toward fatherlessness in America, the Center conducts research on fathers and fathering in order to develop practical resources for dads in nearly every fathering situation.

☆☆☆☆Parenting Matters (http://lifematters.com/parentn.html) Parenting Matters provides information about ways of parenting that work not just for the short term, but in the long term will assist in raising self-reliant, responsible human beings. It promotes a democratic style of parenting that is firm, yet fair, as well as mutually respectful. Its web site contains information for parents and grandparents about issues encountered with their children.

☆☆☆☆Parenting Q & A (http://parenting-qa.com) Parents can ask questions about anything and have them answered by experts.

☆☆☆☆Single Rose: Resource for Single Mothers (http://www.singlerose.com) Single Rose is an online resource for single mothers. Single Rose provides articles on the issues that single mothers raising children alone (divorced, widowed, or unmarried) face, such as divorce recovery, dealing with anger, child support, and custody issues.

☆☆☆☆Women's Bureau (http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb) The Women's Bureau is the single unit at the Federal government level exclusively concerned with serving and promoting the interests of working women. The web site offers a variety of information, resources, and statistics on such issues as child care, elder care, family leave, fair employment practices, and women's rights

VII. URBAN EDUCATION WEB

UEweb is dedicated to urban students, their families, and educators who serve them. It is located at http://eric-web.tc.columbia.edu and is run by ERIC Clearinghouse for Education. UEweb offers manuals, brief articles, annotated bibliographies, reviews and summaries of outstanding publications, and conference announcements in urban education. From the home page, you have the choice of clicking on several icons. When I clicked on [redacted] I was led to a page with the following links:

- Administration and Finance
- Compensatory Education
- Community Involvement
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Equity and Cultural Diversity
- School Reform
- School Safety
- Technology in Urban Education
- Urban and Minority Student Services
- Urban and Minority Youth Development
- Urban Teachers

When I clicked on another icon

, I saw a plethora of links to articles and abstracts about family and community involvement in schools as well as descriptions of programs in which there has been established a successful partnership between family and school.

led me to a page filled with links to urban related education sites for parents. One of these links, Other Urban Education Resources on the World Wide Web led to a page with over fifty links to other sites, such as the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University which has more than 10,000,000 documents and is acknowledged as the nation's largest independent African-American archives. The Amistad web site links to gophers that feature extensive collections on Africa, other minorities, and the gay rights movement. Another great link is The English Server: Race Section at Carnegie Mellon University which lists over 80 links to racial, ethnic, and social equity internet sites. Topics include: black pages resources, refugee law, racial discrimination, and black colleges. Another interesting link is the Harvard Education Publishing Group which includes the Harvard Education Review and The Harvard Education Letter. Of particular interest to urban educators are HER's Special Issue on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and Education, and The Letter's Special Issue on Detracking. Another interesting site is LatinoWeb, a virtual information center for Latino businesses, non-profit organizations and the community. The "Resources" section has good links to Latino organizations as well as an interesting group of links called "country archives" with links to servers in countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico among others, along with the Minority Affairs Forum At UC Davis which is a site devoted to minority-

related issues in education. His site contains many full-text documents on topics such as immigration, affirmative action, bilingual education, and race relations. Multicultural addicts can gorge on the University of Maryland Diversity Database which contains campus, local, national and international academic material relating to the following areas of diversity including age, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion & sexual orientation. The site is divided into sections such as: the Diversity Reference Room, Issue Specific Resources, and General Diversity Resources. Each section includes announcements, internet resources, reference room, and reading room among many others. Also has some full-text documents and fairly comprehensive coverage of ethnic and minority issues. This page of links is a must for every parent. It is definitely a ☆☆☆☆ review.

UEWEB has its own **Search UEweb** engine, and when I typed in the word "parent," I was rewarded with 521 hits, ranging from links to The Challenges of Parent Involvement Research to Parent Engagement as a School Reform Strategy. On very interesting link was US Charter Schools, by WestEd, the California State University Institute for Education Reform, and the U.S. Department of Education, which organizes its resources into four main categories: starting and running your school, school information exchange, resource directory and links, and searching other charter school sites. The site is for people actually involved in creating, sponsoring and running charter schools, as well as technicians, scholars, and policy makers.

VIII. PARENTS AND SCHOOL REFORM

As stated in the introduction, participation by parents in the actual running of schools has taken on a new look since World War II. Today parents have a wonderful opportunity to have a direct say in the budgeting and policy making decisions relating to their children. The best site on the World Wide Web for parents who wish to learn about the potential of this opportunity is Parents and School Reform, located at http://www.softcom.net/users/fox/parents.html (See Parents and School Reform Page).

The page is filled with links to sites which teach parents how to become more involved in the operation of their schools and their communities. The links include information on how to form a partnership between the community and the school, how to make sure that families are involved in the operation of their children's schools, how to obtain relevant research to improve schools, and how to make sure that all entities involved in the education of children take part in rethinking schools.

One of the more informative of these sites is Together We Can, the mission of which is to strengthen and sustain the capacity of community collaboratives and state initiatives to move toward a shared vision. On the Together We Can home page, there is a link to Resource Organizations which lists and contains links to hundreds of organizations, private and public, which help communities develop lasting and effective partnerships with nearby schools. There is also a link to publications which are helpful in this matter and in keeping parents and the community informed of current literature in this area.

Another great site to gain information about school reform is the EdWeb Home Room found at http://edweb.gsn.org/resource.cntnts.html. Click on the pencil icon which says

Education Reforms for the 21st Century. This will bring you to a page called "Trends in Education Reform" (See Trends in Education Reform Page), which in turn will lead to many links containing easy to read information about the latest innovations in educations, including the history of current education reform, capsule summaries of the latest trends in reform, and the relationship between education and information technology.

I clicked on the link What methods of reform have been implemented? This led to a summary page with links to the following: school choice, the learning process, peer competition, professionalization of teachers, the Coalition of Essential Schools and even an easy to understand explanation of the theory of Multiple Intelligence.

Another four star site for the study of school reform is Pathways to School Improvement located at http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/pathways.htm. Here you can read the latest research on educational reform, covering assessment, standards, legislation, family involvement, professional development, trends, and more. The site provides balanced discussions, a glossary of terms, and a general explanation of the reform process. For each topic, critical issues are represented, and provisions for supporting materials and resources are included. Unique and helpful is an interactive program in which schools take stock of their measures toward reform, after which the program provides a customized course of action and research.

From the site map (See Pathways to School Improvement Site Map), click on the item in the third column (Timely Topics) called "Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program" which will lead to information about the states which have tried various experiments. They will even send free videotapes, showing how reform has been successfully achieved in certain schools.

At the following link, http://www.edweek.org/context/glossary/glossary.htm, you will find a very good education glossary put out by Education Week on the Web, which will give you a brief but helpful definition of terms which are very current "buzz words" in school reform (See Education Glossary Page). Each term is a hypertext link to a good definition, e.g., I clicked on the link alternative assessment and was given the following definition: "Any form of measuring what students know and are able to do other than traditional standardized tests. Alternative forms of assessment include portfolios, performance-based assessments, and other means of testing students." A good enough definition for an understanding of the term.

Another [redacted] site for parents to become familiar with school reform is Education Week on the Web at http://www.edweek.org (See Education Week on the Web Page). This site gives current and past issues of the journal, disseminating the latest education policy, pedagogy methods, curriculum materials, and job listings. The magazine features daily news, consisting of education articles from newspapers around the country; a special report card on the condition of U.S. education; and access to Teacher Magazine, a bimonthly publication. Daily news updates are complemented by "In Context," a section containing background information about legislation, reform, educational organizations, and the best new education books and Internet sites.

There is a plethora of other sites, some very informative, some mediocre, on the World Wide Web, containing all the information a parent could wish to be a well informed person who could knowingly participate in the governance of his/her child's school. Some of these sites are: 1) EdWeb Home Room (http://edweb.gsn.org/resource.cntnts.html) This site is a hyperbook exploring the history of the Internet with insight into its role, importance, and future as it relates

to education. The site offers a resource guide for K-12 educators wishing to use the Web as a teaching tool. This site provides good coverage of the recent developments in educational reform, focusing on discussion of how that reform relates to information technology. Questions about the classroom--what will happen to traditional teaching, for example--are examined as part of the debate. Acknowledging that education and training are essential to the success of educational technology, the site contains an interactive course on the design and style of HTML and a discussion forum about instructional technology.

2) About Reform (http://www.kde.state.ky.us/reform.html) This site contains an overview of educational reform in the state of Kentucky and profiles initiatives from the Kentucky Education Reform Act, one of the most comprehensive reform acts in the nation.

3) Condition of Education 1997 (http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/ce/index.html) This site if put on by the National Center for Education Statistics; it gives an updated status and progress of United States education.

4) Educational Excellence Network (http://www.edexcellence.net/index.html). This site is a vast clearinghouse for elementary and secondary education reform information, naming the U.S. "a nation at risk" and stressing the urgent need for bold educational reform. It offers an exploration of current reform issues, articles and reports supporting the network's agenda, and a bibiliography plus related links and features an interactive forum for asking questions or submitting information about reform measures at particular schools.

5) Educational Systems Design (http://cham21.ed.psu.edu/~ae-insys-wfed/insys/esd/esd.html). This site contains good articles about the design of educational systems, focusing on the need

for and process of educational reform. It covers current reform initiatives and topics, introducing the perspectives of several leading educational reformers and several "promising models" of reinvented school designs.

6) Effective Education (http://www.interlog.com/~klima/ed.html) This site leads to a collection of resources regarding educational reform, covering standards, trends, research, family involvement, and more. It provides links to reform projects, articles, and organizations.

7) MiddleWeb: Exploring Urban Middle School Reform

(http://www.middleweb.com/index.html).

This site contains an exploration of school reform and discussion of why it is crucial to the urban middle school. It includes extensive research articles identifying key issues in current middle school reform. It also provides case studies from schools undergoing change.

8) On the Way to School: The Citizen's Guide to Reform (http://www.schoolchoices.org). Here you will find an exploration of the current problems within U.S. education and reform initiatives addressing those problems. It helps to dispel myths about recent trends, presenting research to support school choice as the most effective reform measure.

9) Project 2061 (http://project2061.aaas.org). This page is presented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a project promoting K-12 science education reform, focusing on benchmarks and blueprints to define science literacy. It attempts to explain its research, providing excerpts from its reports and presenting benchmarks for mathematics, science, and technology.

10) School Reform Networks (http://llanes.panam.edu/reform/srn/intro). This site contains a large

listing of educational reform organizations. It includes descriptions, strategies, and goals of each.

11) The Alphabet Superhighway (http://www.ash.udel.edu/ash). This site has great graphics and is published by the University of Delaware, giving practical resources to promote reform-based curricula. It features links to lesson plans and activities for parents and children, a display area for

students' projects, context-sensitive help, cyberzines, and puzzles.

12) The Near-Myth of Our Failing Schools (http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/97oct/fail.htm). Peter Schrag questions what he considers to be "ideologically inspired lamentations" concerning the state of American education, in The Atlantic Monthly (October 1997). The author focuses on the findings of an overlooked 1991 report compiled by Sandia National Laboratories, which undermines much of the rationale of educational reform efforts by both liberals and conservatives.

13) President Clinton's Call to Action for American Education in the 21st Century. This site is published by the United States Department of Education and may be found at http://www.ed.gov/updates/PresEDPlan. It outlines President Clinton's commitment to and suggestions for preparing America's schools for the 21st century and includes full text of the proposal, as presented by President Clinton at the 1997 State of the Union Address.

14) Jon's Unschooling Page (http://www.scruz.net/~jds/hs/unschool.htm) is published by Jon Shemitz and contains a collection of articles and resources related to "unschooling," an educational philosophy that negates the traditional concept of schooling and advocates homeschooling as a viable alternative.

15) What Works in Urban Education (http://www.cgcs.org/services/whatworks). This is a

listing of reform-oriented urban school programs, such as school-to-work, professional development, instructional technology, and more. The page describes the schools' projects, reporting the resources used, evidence of effectiveness, funding sources, contact information, and related resources.

16) American Educational Research Association (http://aera.net) This is an international association of educators, administrators, and legislators promoting educational research and reform in all disciplines. The site presents the association's publications, information on special interest groups, and related resources.

17) Best Practices in Education (http://www.bestpraceduc.org/index.html). This is an organization researching effective teaching methods of foreign countries, in an effort to adopt those methods for use in U.S. schools. It presents current educational projects, discussing for each the employment of innovative teaching methods and offers a special segment of papers from the 1997 international conference Best Practices in Educational Technology and a list of international K-12 educational resources.

18) Center for Education Reform (http://edreform.com). This is an organization providing guidance and advocacy for school reform, focusing on accountability, assessment, and accessibility and promoting school choice and charter schools. It includes excerpts from its publications, information and statistics on the major reform trends, results from a nationwide survey of public opinion on reform, a listing of grassroots educational reform groups, and a discussion forum. It contains links to the Education Leaders Council, a subsidiary of the center arguing that communities--not government--are key to school reform.

19) Center for Research in Educational Policy (http://www.coe.memphis.edu/coe/crep/crep.html) This site contains research and recommended action for K-12 education, focusing on school policy and reform. It includes the center's publications and project information and links to related sites.

20)Coalition of Essential Schools (http://www.ces.brown.edu). This site is an educational philosophy course in itself. It discusses the philosophy of school reform, implemented throughout a worldwide coalition of schools. It presents the 10 principles of the "essential" philosophy, publications about the coalition and educational reform, chat forums, and contact information for coalition networks and participating schools and includes a brief biography of Theodore Sizer,

founder of the coalition.

21) Conservatives for Excellence in Education (http://members.aol.com/bpt52/cee.html). This is an organization arguing that liberals have destroyed the U.S. education system, outlining the differences between the current educational reform agenda and that of the organization. The site provides excerpts from articles to support its mission, includes links to related literature and Web sites, and maintains an "Action Board" of proactive projects. It features "The Cyber Trip," an interactive, annotated tour through the history of educational reform, presenting items like A Nation at Risk, national SAT scores, and various reports.

22) Civic Education Project (CEP) (http://www.cep.yale.edu). This project is a private, nonprofit, international organization advocating higher education reform in areas undergoing economic and political reform. It offers public mailing lists, information on workshops and

projects, notes on employment opportunities, an association newsletter, and membership application materials.

23) Council for Basic Education (http://www.c-b-e.org). This site provides information on the educational reform organization, which works to improve the teaching and learning of basic school subjects.

24) CSU Institute for Education Reform (http://www.csus.edu/ier). This is an institute supporting K-12 education reform, focusing on public policy, teacher training, and research. The site discusses charter schools, such as the criteria to receive aid and resources available. It presents its research concerning reform, including full-length reports and articles.

25) Education Alliance (http://www.brown.edu/Research/The_Education_Alliance). This site is provided by Brown University. The Alliance is an organization working with educators and policymakers to reform education by addressing language, culture, and diversity curriculum issues. The site includes information on its professional development services, publications, and affiliated research centers.

26) Education Commission of the States (http://www.ecs.org/ecs/ecsweb.nsf). This is an organization working with policy makers and educators to improve education. The Web page includes articles on "hot topics" in K-12 and higher education, such as accountability, school improvement models, with substantial emphasis on New American Schools, and educational technology.

27) Education Leaders Council (http://edreform.com/elc/index.html). This is provided by the Center for Education Reform, an organization promoting educational reform in conjunction with the Center for Education Reform. It includes several issues of Opportunity, the organization's

newsletter and discusses National Board certification for teachers, arguing against federal and state spending for the Board until the usefulness of such spending is realized.

28) National Center for Education Statistics (http://nces.ed.gov). This is a great site for those who love numbers and statistics and is, of course, published by the United States Department of Education, in particular by a branch of the U.S. Department of Education researching educational systems throughout the world, focusing on the makeup and effectiveness of American schools and maintaining about 100 publications. The page presents its services, excerpts from publications, and information about general education and education research.

29) Office of Educational Research and Improvement (http://www.ed.gov/offices/OERI). This site is also provided by the United States Department of Education conducting research, developing projects, and distributing knowledge to improve American schools. It includes a presentation of its various departments and an exploration of its research centers and priorities. It also offers access to educational publications discussing reform.

30) Parents Engaged in Education Reform (http://www.fesn.org/peer). This is an organization educating parents of children with disabilities on the issues of educational reform. It includes an archive of the organization's newsletter.

31) Parents Raising Educational Standards in Schools (http://www.execpc.com/~presswis). This is an organization increasing parental awareness of and involvement in the school reform process, focusing primarily on the state of Wisconsin. It includes educational reform legislation, literature, and terminology and advice to parents working toward reform.

32) Program on Reinventing Public Education (http://www.gspa.washington. edu /PRPE/ prpehome.html) This site presents latest research on public school governance, advocating an

increased role for civic leaders. It includes descriptions of its projects and articles focusing on school choice and decentralization issues.

33) The National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (http://www.ncpie.org). This is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to strengthening school-family partnerships. The site offers a linked directory of board members, including many well-known experts and provides policy and implementation guidelines.

34) Catalyst: Voices of Chicago School Reform (http://www.catalyst-chicago.org). This is a magazine tracking Chicago school reform. It offers select articles and abstracts from and tables of contents of issues since 1990, a calendar of educational events in Chicago and on public television, a timeline of Chicago school reform beginning in 1985, information about the Chicago public school system, and links to articles from other sources about such issues as charter schools, block scheduling, school-to-work, and more.

35) Education Policy Analysis Archives (http://olam.ed.asu.edu/epaa). This is a peer-reviewed electronic journal addressing educational policy and reform issues which offers access to current and past issues of the journal, opportunities to submit commentary or an article, a database of information about educational issues, and article abstracts.

36) Education Vital Signs (http://www.asbj.com/evs). This is a publication of the American School Board Journal, the thirteenth edition of the educational reform report focusing on student achievement. Provides a synopsis of the main events of 1997, which involved controversial debates about voluntary national tests, school vouchers, Ebonics, privatization and charter schools, and class size. It includes articles on how to assess the success of a school or student,

the effects of reform on achievement, and the demographics of school boards. It also features statistics from Building a Nation of Learners, a report on the progress of the nation's schools, disclosing discouraging numbers in regard to school finances, classroom characteristics, and mean SAT scores for individual states.

IX. PLAIN OLD FUN FOR PARENTS AND KIDS

Now that you have learned to surf the Net and are no longer a newbie to cyberspace and now that you have gone to sites which have informed you of your rights as parents, along with how to participate fully in those rights as they relate to sharing equally in the governance of your school, it's time to relax and have some plain old fun with your children.

One of my favorite places for family fun is the Teacher/Pathfinder Parent Building, located at http://teacherpathfinder.org/Parent/parent.html (See Welcome to The Teacher/Pathfinder Parent Building Page). Click on the link called Fun for Kids, and you will be led to many sites where you and your kids can spend hours together having good old family fun. Some of the best in this page are:

•3-D Netris from EarthWeb http://www.earthweb.com/java/Netris/

•Animal Guessing Game http://www.bushnet.qld.edu.au/animal/

•Berit's Best Sites for Children http://www.cochran.com/ theosite/ Ksites_part2.html#fun

•Buchanan Kids Reviews Page http://www.buchanan.com/ kids/index.html

•ChessWeb http://studwww.rug.ac.be/cgi-bin/cgiwrap?user=mjdbruyn&script= chess.cgi

•Concentration http://www.mtlake.com/cyberteens/games/concentration/ concentration.html

•Desdemona: Othello for the Web http://www.math.hmc.edu/~dmazzoni/cgi-bin/desmain.cgi

•The Disney Channel http://www.disney.com/DisneyChannel/

•Fake Out: Definition Guessing Game http://www.hmco.com/hmco/school/dictionary/index.html

•Global Show-n-Tell Museum Wings http://www.telenaut.com/gst/

•KidNews by Dr. Peter Owens http://www.vsa.cape.com/~powens/Kidnews.html

•Kids Kool Konnections http://www.buchanan.com/kids/kidskk.htm

•Kidstuff http://pathfinder.com/@@aJY5mIECJgMAQLlM/pathfinder/kidstuff/kidstuff.html

•Let's Play Checkers http://web.cs.ualberta.ca/~chinook/cgi-bin/intro.html

•MasterWeb http://imagiware.com/masterweb.cgi

•Name That Flag http://www.aone.com/~dave8/nameflag.html

•Peg Game http://www.bu.edu/htbin/pegs

•So, you want to solve a Rubik Cube? http://www-leland.stanford.edu/~offsky/cube/index.html

•Tic Tac Toe http://ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de:8080/c-bin/TicTacToe

•Vortris http://www.cybertise.com/cybergames/vortris.html

•WebBattleship http://info.gte.com/gtel/fun/battle/battle.html

•WebCube a Web version of the famous Rubik's Cube http://info.gte.com/gtel/fun/cube/cube.html

Another great family site is Parents Guide to the Internet: Sites Along the Way which can be found at http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/internet/sites.html. This page contains all sorts of goodies for families (See Sites Along the Way Page) divided into the following categories: Family-Friendly Places such as Parents and Children Together Online, Megasites, such 50+ Great Sites for Kids & Parents, Online Reference Material, such as The Internet Public Library:

Reference Center, and, finally, Sites for Parents and Parent Groups, such as The Children's Partnership.

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